

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A securing device for a structural component to be secured to a panel with a tubular piece inserted into a penetration in the panel, and a screw inserted into the tubular piece, said screw being supported with its head on one end of the tubular piece and holding the structural component with its threaded part, said structural component contacting the other end of the tubular piece, said tubular piece being screwed an optional distance into the penetration for axial adjustment, characterized in that the tubular piece contains a distance detector, wherein, when the tubular piece is at a distance from the structural component, said distance detector is in its starting position projecting out of said tubular piece on its side facing away from the screw head and, when the tubular piece is screwed to contact with the structural component and in response to the distance detector contacting the structural component, said distance detector is linearly slideably displaced relative to the tubular piece.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A securing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve inserted into the tubular piece.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A securing device according to claim 2, characterized in that the sleeve is slotted.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A securing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a pin axially guided in the tubular piece.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A securing device according to claim 1, characterized in that the distance detector is forced into its starting position by a spring element.

Claim 6 (previously presented): A securing device according to claim 5, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve, and the spring element consists of oblique surfaces disposed on the sleeve on its side facing away from the screw head, said oblique surfaces cooperating with sloping faces at the relevant end of the tubular piece.

Claim 7 (new): A securing device for a structural component to be secured to a panel with a tubular piece inserted into a penetration in the panel, and a screw inserted into the tubular piece, said screw being supported with its head on one end of the tubular piece and holding the structural component with its threaded part, said structural component contacting the other end of the tubular piece, said tubular piece being screwed an optional distance into the penetration for axial adjustment, characterized in that the tubular piece contains a distance detector, wherein the tubular piece and the distance detector include smooth interfacing surfaces permitting longitudinal sliding displacement therebetween, wherein, when the tubular piece is at a distance from the structural component, said distance detector is in its starting position projecting out of said tubular piece on its side facing away from the screw head and, when the tubular piece is screwed to contact with the structural component, said distance detector is slideably displaced relative to the tubular piece.

Claim 8 (new): A securing device according to claim 7, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve inserted into the tubular piece.

Claim 9 (new): A securing device according to claim 8, characterized in that the sleeve is slotted.

Claim 10 (new): A securing device according to claim 7, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a pin axially guided in the tubular piece.

Claim 11 (new): A securing device according to claim 7, characterized in that the distance detector is forced into its starting position by a spring element.

Claim 12 (new): A securing device according to claim 11, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve, and the spring element consists of oblique surfaces disposed on the sleeve on its side facing away from the screw head, said oblique surfaces cooperating with sloping faces at the relevant end of the tubular piece.

Claim 13 (new): A securing device according to claim 7, characterized in that the inner surface of the tubular piece is smooth.

Claim 14 (new): A securing device according to claim 7, characterized in that the outer surface of the distance detector is smooth.

Claim 15 (re-presented – formerly dependent claim 5): A securing device for a structural component to be secured to a panel with a tubular piece inserted into a penetration in the panel, and a screw inserted into the tubular piece, said screw being supported with its head on one end of the tubular piece and holding the structural component with its threaded part, said structural component contacting the other end of the tubular piece, said tubular piece being screwed an optional distance into the penetration for axial adjustment, characterized in that the tubular piece contains a distance detector, wherein, when the tubular piece is at a distance from the structural component, said distance detector is forced in its starting position projecting out of said tubular piece on its side facing away from the screw head by a spring element and, when the tubular piece is screwed to contact with the structural component, said distance detector is slideably displaced relative to the tubular piece.

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Claim 16 (new): A securing device according to claim 15, characterized in that the distance detector is in the form of a sleeve, and the spring element consists of oblique surfaces disposed on the sleeve on its side facing away from the screw head, said oblique surfaces cooperating with sloping faces at the relevant end of the tubular piece.